

VLR- 4/17/91 NRHP- 1/28/92

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name HARE FOREST FARM
other names/site number DHR #68-124

2. Location

street & number Route 700 NA not for publication
city, town Orange X vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Orange code 137 zip code 22960

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Date

12-12-91

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria, ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwellingAGRICULTURE: Agricultural outbuildings

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwellingAGRICULTURE: Agricultural outbuildings**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

FederalColonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICKwalls BRICKroof METAL: Tin

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Hare Forest Farm is a 173-acre farm, of which 62 acres are included in the nomination, located on both sides of Route 700 approximately 3 1/2 miles northeast of the town of Orange in Orange County. The complex at Hare Forest consists of the main house (early nineteenth century with twentieth century additions), a stone garage, a nineteenth-century frame smokehouse with attached barn, an early twentieth century frame barn, a vacant early twentieth century tenant house, a stone tower, an early twentieth century frame tenant house, an abandoned storage house, and a late-twentieth-century horse barn and tenant house, as well as the stone foundations of three dwellings of undetermined date. The main house consists of three clearly identifiable sections: the two-story, center block which dates from the early nineteenth century, a two-story brick dining room wing which dates from the early twentieth century, and a mid-twentieth century brick kitchen wing. The oldest part is two stories high over an English basement, and four bays wide. It features Flemish bond brickwork on the main facade, a molded brick cornice and gable-end chimneys. Windows and doors on the first story are topped by flared plastered brick lintels with raised keystones, by lintels without keystones on the second story. An unusual feature of the front and back facades is the wide space between the central entry and the next window to the north. The dining and kitchen wings to the north are also brick, are one story in height and have gable roofs. The interior of the main block features a central-passage plan and much original Federal period detailing. Alterations include the relocation of the main stair, insertion of a basement stair and the addition of a passage on the second floor.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Hare Forest farm is a 173-acre farm, of which 62 acres are included in the nomination, located on both sides of Route 700 approximately 3 1/2 miles northeast of the town of Orange in Orange County. The surrounding landscape is made up of large horse and cattle farms and is overwhelmingly rural.

The house stands at the end of a quarter-mile-long driveway to the south of Route 700 and is surrounded by fenced pastures. The yard around the house is completely encircled by boxwood, and boxwood also grows up against the house, partially obscuring the basement. A short brick walk framed by brick gateposts leads from the driveway to the house.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1815-1938

Significant Dates

1815

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hare Forest Farm is significant for its many historical associations and as a well-preserved example of Federal-style domestic architecture in Orange County, Virginia. The land was once owned by William Strother, maternal grandfather of Zachary Taylor, and it has often been claimed (albeit inconclusively) that the future president was born on the property. The present house was built by Dr. Francis Dade probably between 1815 and 1816. Dade was a physician trained at the University of Pennsylvania whose extensive medical library is well-documented. The house bears many hallmarks of the Federal style, including the molded brick cornice, flared lintels with center keystones and extensive interior woodwork. The house, although altered and added to in the twentieth century, is in an excellent state of preservation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The main house at Hare Forest stands at the corner of two important early Orange County land patents: a 10,000-acre tract patented to James Taylor in 1722 and a much larger patent owned by Alexander Spotswood. In 1779 William and Sarah Hunter sold 468 acres, including Hare Forest, to William Strother.¹ In 1782 Strother sold 350 acres of the tract to Francis Dade with Strother's son-in-law Richard Taylor among the witnesses to the deed.² Taylor and his wife Sarah Strother were the future parents of Zachary Taylor and it is often claimed that the couple lived in a long-vanished frame house located across the railroad tracks from the present dwelling. However, their residence between 1782 and late 1784 when the future president was born is uncertain. Tradition says that when the family prepared to set out for Kentucky, the illness of a member of their party caused a delay of six weeks and during this time Zachary Taylor was born. A number of other potential sites, however have been identified as the birthplace of the future President, among them Montebello Farm in Orange County. Zachary Taylor himself wrote only that he was "born in Orange County, Virginia" and the location of his exact birthplace is at best speculative.³

In 1782 the property was sold in an unimproved state to Francis Dade.⁴ Dade (1756-1791) was a wealthy farmer and owner of a gristmill. An original member of the Society of the

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Orange County Will Records
Orange County Land Records
Orange County Personal Property Tax Records
Orange County Land Tax Records
Orange County marriage register
Miller, Ann. Antebellum Orange (Orange: Orange County Historical Society) 19
Scott, William Wallace. A History of Orange County. (Richmond: E Wadday) 190

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository:

Va. Dept. of Historic Resource:
221 Governor St. Richmond Va.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 62 acres

UTM References

A 17 7555840 4241420
Zone Easting Northing
C 17 7555110 4241350

B 17 7555600 4241180
Zone Easting Northing
D 17 755130 4241680

E: 17 | 75555 | 4241690

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points:

A 17/755840/4241420, B 17/755600/4241180, C 17/755110/4241350,
D 17/755130/4241680, and E 17/755555/4241690.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the house, as well as associated outbuildings, fields and orchards that have been historically part of Hare Forest farm and that maintain historic integrity.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey Henry
organization _____ date March 1991
street & number 1515 Rutledge Avenue telephone 804-293-8006
city or town Charlottesville state Va. zip code 22903

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1 Hare Forest, Orange County, Virginia

The house consists of three clearly identifiable sections: the main block, dating from the early nineteenth century, an early twentieth-century dining room wing, and a mid-twentieth-century kitchen wing, possibly built on older foundations.

The main block is two stories high with an English basement and is four bays wide. It features Flemish bond brickwork on the main (east) facade, five-course American bond on the other three facades (all facades are now painted yellow), a molded brick cornice below the eaves, and a partially exposed chimney at each gable end. The tin gable roofing dates to the early twentieth century. An unusual feature of the front and back facades is the wide space between the center door and the window to the north. This arrangement corresponds to the off-center plan and the wide center passage of the interior and is similar to that seen at Manual Level, also in Orange County.

The windows on the first story of the front facade have four-over-four sashes and are topped by plastered brick keystone lintels with a raised keystone. The window to the right of the center door was changed to a full-length window, probably in the early twentieth century. The windows on the second story feature six-over-six sash, molded frames, brick sills, and plastered brick keystone lintels without raised keystones. The six-pane casement windows on the basement level also have plastered keystone lintels. The center entrance has an eight-panel door dating from the early nineteenth century, and is also topped by a plastered lintel with center keystone. There was once a transom above this door but it has been blocked. There are no openings on the north and south facades except for the simple four-pane casement windows on either side of the chimney on the attic story.

On the rear facade of the first story, the windows were changed to French doors (probably in the early twentieth century) and have paneled reveals and paneled shutters. Curiously, the left window lacks the plastered brick lintel with raised keystone seen on all other first-story openings. The center entrance has a double-leaf door which dates from the early twentieth century, although the paneled reveals and four-light rectangular transom are original. Windows on the second story have six-over-six sash and plastered brick lintels without a raised keystone. A one-story shed-roofed screened porch with turned posts and jig-sawn brackets from the Victorian period extends across the length of this facade.

The two-story, two-bay, gable-roofed brick dining room wing extends from the north gable end of the main house and dates to the early twentieth century. It features segmental-arched window heads, a tin roof, and a boxed wooden cornice. The one-story, two-bay, gable-roofed brick kitchen wing was built in the mid-twentieth century. It also has segmental-arched window heads, a tin roof and boxed wooden cornice. Both wings are painted yellow, matching the main block.

The interior of the main house features a single-pile/central passage plan with a living room to the left of the central hall, a smaller study to the right, and bedrooms, a hall, and a bath on the second floor. Because of the exterior window and door arrangements, the two doors are situated

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 Hare Forest, Orange County, Virginia

off-center in relation to the central passage. The plain door surround at the front is not original, although the molded, mortised-and-pegged surround of the rear door dates from the early Federal period. The delicately molded pedestal and beaded baseboard in the hall are also from this period, but the ceiling molding is not original. From cuts and seams in the floor boards, it is apparent that the stair originally rose from the right rear corner of the hall and that the present stair, located at the right front corner is not original. The present stair features a square newel post, rounded handrail, two balusters per tread, and a dado rail and dates from the early twentieth century, although the molded Stair treads may have been salvaged from the original staircase.

The door from the passage to the study was once on axis with that to the living room, but was moved to the right rear corner when the present stair to the basement was built in the early twentieth century. The stair to the basement features decorative Victorian jig-sawn railing and a short square newel post.

The study has retained its original molded pedestal chair rail and beaded baseboard, but the crown molding and built-in bookshelves on the east wall are modern additions. The mantel on the north wall is the most elaborate in the house and is a well-executed example of early Federal workmanship. It features molded pilasters with inset colonnettes, a molded center panel in the frieze, and a molded mantel shelf which breaks forward at the corners and at the center.

The living room retains its molded window frames and ledges, as well as its beaded baseboard trim. The chair rail, however, is not original; its profile matches that used along the early-twentieth century stair in the hall and dates from the same period. The fireplace features a molded and beaded surround, and molded mantel shelf with a plain frieze.

The plan of the second floor has been altered more extensively than that of the first floor. It originally featured a central passage with a stair at the northwest corner lit by a single window at the east and west; this was flanked by two full-size bedrooms. In the early twentieth-century this arrangement was altered. A new stair was cut into the northeast corner of the hall, a new room inserted (now a bathroom) and a transverse hall added that connected the old part of the house to new rooms on the north.

The south bedroom is largely unaltered, with original floors, baseboard, window trim, chair rail and mantel. The crown molding, ledges beneath the windows, and closets are later changes. The mantel is identical to that in the living room except for the absence of plain blocks at the bases of the pilasters and the fact that it still retains its original mantel shelf. The six-panel door is original, although the handle and lock are late nineteenth century in date.

The bathroom retains some original woodwork, including chair rail and baseboard trim. A six-panel door on the north wall leads to the attic stair. The attic retains much of its original appearance; the split-lathe and plaster and visible brickwork are intact, as are some of the pegged and numbered roof rafters.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Hare Forest, Orange County, Virginia

The transverse passage has two sets of built-in closets that are twentieth-century in date. The entrance at the north was cut in during the early twentieth century alterations at Hare Forest. This shortened the width of the north bedroom so that the fireplace mantel juts up against the west wall. This mantel is similar to that in the other bedroom and there is much original chair rail, baseboard and window trim, as well as an original six-panel door.

The dining room wing on the north dates from the early twentieth century; its construction coincided with the alteration of the center stair and the placement of the transverse hall on the second floor. The dining room features molded baseboards and chair rail with the profile of the chair rail matching that in the hall and living room. The window and doors are trimmed with flat boards. The floors are narrow-width pine. The second floor of this wing features a long hall, bathroom and bedroom, all featuring the same window and door trim, narrow-width floors and molded baseboard.

The kitchen wing dates from the mid-twentieth century. It features a kitchen, small powder room and an entrance on the north.

A few yards to the east of the kitchen is a small rubble-stone building of uncertain date, now used as a garage. Measuring approximately 11' by 15', it features a large double door on the south, a smaller door on the north, a gable roof covered with a standing-seam metal roof and exposed rafter ends at each gable. It is in good condition.

Further to the east is a tall two-story, mid-nineteenth-century frame smokehouse. Standing on a stone foundation and log sill, the smokehouse is covered with boards spaced one inch apart. Many of them are pierced with a vent hole. The roof is covered with irregularly-cut three-foot-wide boards; in turn this roof is covered with a modern corrugated metal roof. This smokehouse was greatly enlarged by the addition of a two-story tractor barn on the east end.

Also on the property are an early twentieth-century, multi-bay horse barn, a stone tower of undetermined age, an early twentieth-century frame tenant house, an abandoned storage house, an abandoned early-twentieth century tenant house, and the stone foundations of three dwellings of undetermined age. Non-contributing resources include a frame tenant house and a metal horse barn built by the present owners in 1982.

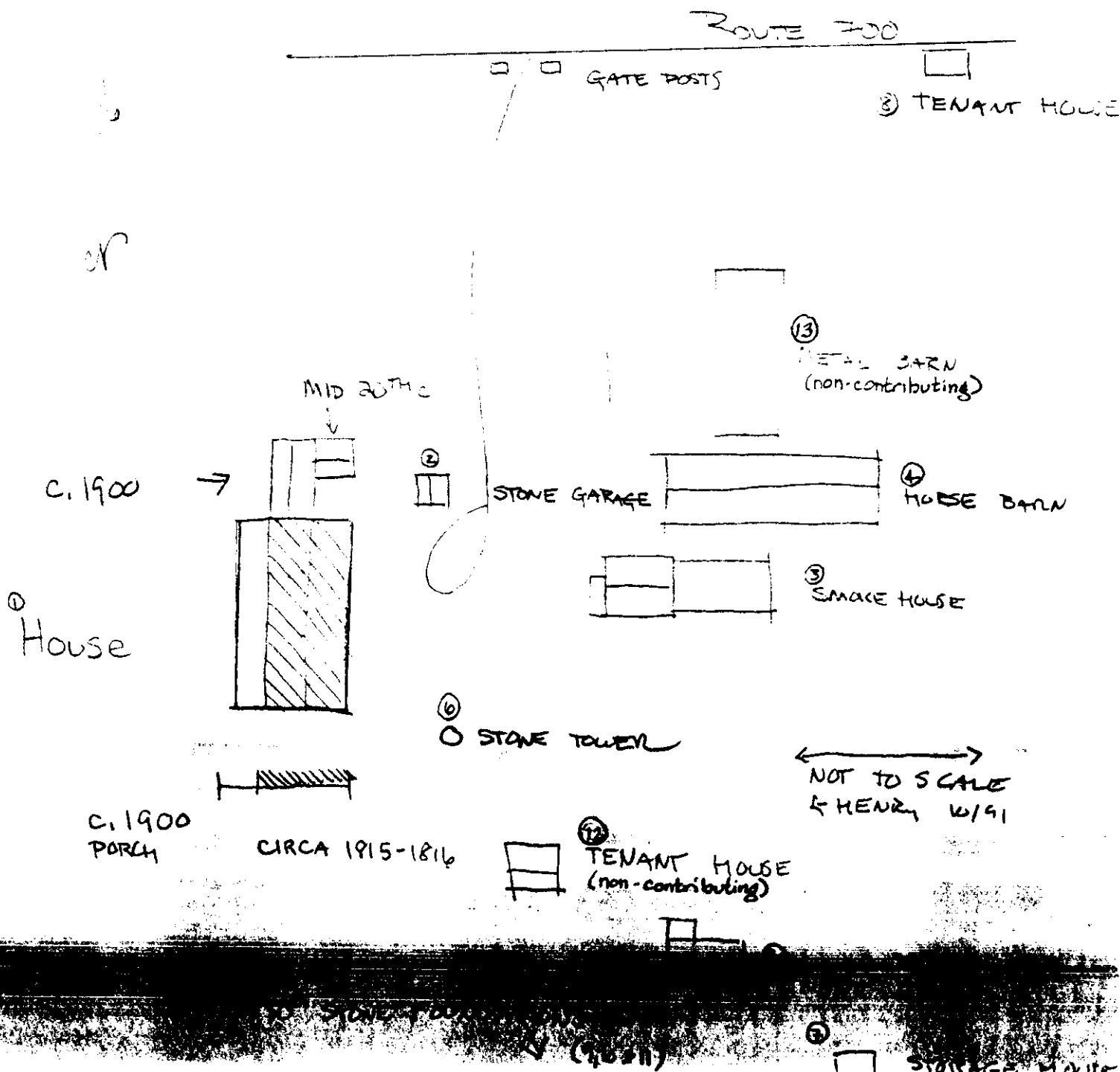
INVENTORY OF RESOURCES, HARE FOREST FARM

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1-House | 7-Abandoned storage house |
| 2-Stone garage | 8-Abandoned tenant house |
| 3-Smokehouse | 9-, 10- and 11-Stone foundations (contributing sites) |
| 4-Horse barn | 12-Tenant house (noncontributing building) |
| 5-Tenant house | 13- Horse barn (noncontributing building) |
| 6-Stone tower (contributing structure) | |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 Hare Forest, Orange County, Virginia



United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5 Hare Forest, Orange County, Virginia

Cincinnati in Virginia, he entered the Army and served until the end of the War, leaving as a captain. In 1784 he received a 4000-acre tract for his services. In 1791 Hare Forest was inherited by his second son Francis. The younger Dade, born in 1787, graduated from the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania in 1810. He returned to Orange County by 1811 and married Harriet Shepherd (1793-1870) on December 12 of that year. He paid a physician's license tax to Orange County beginning in 1812⁵ and was associated with Drs. Peyton Grymes and William Shepherd (perhaps an in-law) for a few years, although it is almost certain that Dade was the only physician in Orange County with formal medical training at the time. He died in 1816.

A combination of architectural, biographical, and legal evidence seems to pinpoint the building date for Hare Forest to the years between 1811 and 1816. It is possible that Dade built the house soon after his marriage, although the personal property tax records for 1815 do not show any house valued over \$500.⁶ In 1820, however, the land tax records noted a building on the property valued at \$1125.⁷ The inventory taken after Dade's death in 1816, which noted a large collection of furniture, silver and other household possessions, indicated that Dade owned a house of his own.⁸ Finally, a report from the executors of Dade's estate noted that a "voucher was exhibited before us showing that 74 panes of glass were put in the house shortly after Dr. Dade's death", indicating that the house was finished in 1816. The estate paid Nicholas Clersefelt \$1.96 for glazing the seventy-four panes and Cudder Davis for the putty.⁹

Several insights into Dade's lifestyle and position as a well-off and well-educated physician are provided by the probate inventories. Although they mention an office, it is not certain whether he practiced at Hare Forest or at another location, perhaps in the county seat of Orange a few miles away. Many of his surgical and medical instruments, as well as tonics, medicines and dental implements were itemized in the inventory. Dade also evidently possessed an unusually large and complete library of medical books, certainly one of the largest recorded from this period in central Virginia. Among the books listed were Samuel Cooper's *First Lines of the Practice of Surgery* (1808), Burns and Chapman's *Principles of Midwifery* (1810), W.S. Jacob's *Student's Chemical Pocket Companion* (1807), Chaphall's *Chemistry*, Bree's *Asthma*, and Barton's *Botany*, as well as several Latin and Greek dictionaries (the abbreviated titles are as listed in the inventory.)¹⁰ Many of these books were bought by Dade's associate, Dr. Peyton Grymes (who also married his widow in 1819) and parts of this library recently resurfaced and were catalogued in the *Journal of the Bibliographical Society of America*.

The house built by Dr. Dade is a well-executed example of Federal-style domestic architecture in Orange County. Hallmarks of this style at Hare Forest include the lintels with keystones, molded brick cornice and interior woodwork. A recent (1988) survey of antebellum buildings in Orange County identified only six brick residences built before 1830 (some, such as Montpelier, have been altered considerably), making Hare Forest an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6 Hare Forest, Orange County, Virginia

especially good example of its building type.¹¹ Only two other houses resemble it to any great degree: the Holladay House on Main Street in Orange, built around 1830, and Manual Level near the Orange-Greene County border, built around 1815. The Holladay House shares several similarities with Hare Forest, particularly in its use of flared lintels with keystones and a molded cornice. Manual Level is even more closely related to Hare Forest in that it shares the same unusual arrangement of windows and doors on the two long facades, an off-center hall, flared window lintels, and raised English basement. The fact that it was built at the same time as Hare Forest by another doctor (perhaps an acquaintance of Dade's) may suggest the two houses were designed by the same builder, although this is speculative. In any case, Manual Level has been altered considerably by the addition of an extra story with a mansard roof and a large two-story classical front portico. Of the two, Hare Forest retains more of its architectural integrity.

In 1832 Dade's executors sold the farm (it was already known as Hare Forest by that time, although the origin of the name is not known) along with two other, smaller tracts, to John S. Terrill.¹² In 1877 its owner, Mildred Covell, exchanged Hare Forest for property in Rochester, New York, owned by B. T. Trimmer.¹³ The Trimmer family owned it until 1938 and were probably responsible for the dining room addition, the alteration of the center stair, the addition of the basement stair and the rear porch, and the large frame barn to the east of the house. The farm passed through a succession of unrelated owners until bought by the present owners, the Poulsons, in 1982. They built the large metal barn to the east of the house and have continued its operation as a horse farm.

ENDNOTES

1. Orange County Deed Book 17, page 157.
2. Orange County Deed Book 18, page 258.
3. Ann L. Miller, *Antebellum Architecture of Orange County*, (Orange County Historical Society) 1988, page 122.
4. Orange County Deed Book 18, page 258.
5. Orange County Personal Property Tax Record—1812.
6. Orange County Personal Property Tax Record—1820.
7. Orange County Land Tax Book—1820.
8. Orange County Will Book 8, pages 6-8.
9. Orange County Will Book 8, page 40.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 7 Hare Forest, Orange County, Virginia

10. Orange County Will Book 8, pages 10-14.
11. Miller, page 123.
12. Orange County Deed Books 30 page 121; 32, page 193; and 34, page 240.
13. Orange County Deed Book 49, page 488.

